GOSPEL Family-Order,

BEING A

SHORT DISCOURSE

CONCERNING THE

Ordering of Families,

BOTH OF

Whites, Blacks and Indians.

Pour out thy Fury upon the Heathen *that know thee not, and upon the Families that call not on thy Name; for they have eaten up* Jacob, *and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his Habitation desolate,* Jer. 10. 25.

Seeing that Abraham *shall surely become a great and mighty Nation, and all the Nations of the Earth shall be blessed in him: For I know him, that he will command his Children, and his Houshold after him, and they shall keep the Way of the Lord, to do Justice and Judgment, that the Lord may bring upon* Abraham *that which he hath spoken of him,* Gen. 18. 18, 19.

And if it seem Evil unto you to serve the Lord, chuse you this day whom you will serve, whether the Gods which your Fathers served, that were on the other Side of the Flood, or the Gods of the Amorites *in whose Land ye dwell; but as for me and my House, we will serve the Lord,* Joshua 24. 15.

By G. F.

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GOSPEL Family-Order..

The following Discourse is as it was taken from the Mouth of George Fox *at a Mens Meeting at* Tho. Rous *his House in* Barbadoes *in the Year* 1671. *touching the* Government *of* Families *according to the* Law *of* Jesus.

HEre all Friends may see how the holy Men of God by the Command of the Lord were to order their Families apart, and also by the same Law of God the People in the General were to be ordered, as you may see in *Gen.* 17. where God commanded *Abraham* to keep his Covenant between him and his Seed; *Every Man-child shall be circumcised in your Generations, and he that is born in thy House, or bought with Money of any Stranger, which is not of thy Seed, shall be circumcised*; Gen. 17. and *Abraham* obeyed the Command of God in circumcising all his Family, and all that were born in his House and all that were bought with Money of Strangers. Now you who are called *Christians*, must not all your Families be circumcised with the Spirit, which the out-

outward Circumcision of the Flesh did type forth? yea, all Sons and Daughters, Masters or Mistresses of Families must be circumcised *with the Spirit, that puts off the Body of Death*, the Sins of the Flesh with the Circumcision of the Spirit, *that is not made with Hands*; and also all that you have bought with Money, all Strangers, and all that are born in your Houses (of Strangers) which are not of your own Seed, must you not bring all these to the Circumcision of the Spirit? else how are you the Friends of God, as *Abraham* was, who obeyed God; and therefore call upon all your Families, and your Servants whom you bought for Money, and those that were born of them in your Families, *and let them be Circumcised*, and endeavour to bring them to that which doth circumcise them, to wit, the Spirit, which is the Substance of the outward Circumcision; and every one that was not circumcised, was he not to be cut off from among the People. And so are not all now that are not circumcised by the Spirit to be cut off from the spiritual Union, the spiritual Fellowship? And therefore if you who are Masters of Families, if you (I say) do not see the Circumcision of all your Families, of Servants and Strangers, and all such as are bought with Money, will it not lye upon you, who ought to take Care for your Families, and order your Families, as *Joshua* said he would order his Family, *And if it seem Evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this Day whom you will serve, whether the Gods which your Fathers served, that were on the other Side of the Flood, &c. or the Gods of the* Amorites, *in whose Land ye dwell*, BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

Joshua 24.15.

HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD. And ſo were not all his Servants that he bought with Money, and Strangers, and ſuch as were born in his Houſe of his Family, were they not all to ſerve the Lord, according to the Law in the outward Circumciſion? And ſo are not all you Chriſtians now, and Maſters and Miſtreſſes of Families now to look to your Families, to ſee that you and your Families do ſerve the Lord in the Circumciſion of the Spirit of God? by which Spirit you muſt worſhip God in Spirit and in Truth, who is the Father of Spirits, and *the God of the Spirits of all Fleſh*: And therefore mind and conſider this in your Families, and gather them altogether, and teach them the Way of the Lord, and the New Covenant; yea, your Families and Children, and thoſe you bought with Moneys, and the Strangers, and ſuch as are born of them in your Houſe.

And in *Exod* 12. there you may ſee how the Lord ſaid, *when a Stranger ſojourneth with thee, he ſhall keep the Paſſeover of the Lord, and let all his Males be circumciſed.* Exod. 12.

You may think it was a ſtrange thing, that if a Man did but *ſojourn* in the Houſe of a *Jew*, that the Male ſhould be circumciſed; for a Sojourner is a *Comer* and *Goer*; but a Servant that is bought with Money, or one that is born of them in the Houſe, is more then a *Sojourner*; for no uncircumciſed was to eat of the Paſſeover. And ſo now no uncircumciſed Perſon is to eat of the Sacrifice or Paſſeover, *Chriſt Jeſus*, but ſuch only (I ſay) *who are circumciſed by the Spirit*, who ends the outward Paſſeover and the outward Circumciſion,

ciſion, which were Types of Chriſt; and ſo one Law ſhould be to him that is born at home, and to the Stranger that ſojourneth with you: And as all were then to keep this Law of God, *ſo all are to keep this Law of Jeſus Chriſt among Chriſtians now.*

And *Leviticus* 14. there it is ſaid, *You ſhall have one Manner of Law, as well for the Stranger, as for one of you own Country; I am the Lord your God, ſaith the Lord.* Lev. 14.

So this Law was then and ſtill is to be obſerved, which is, *to love God above all, and to love their Neighbours as themſelves.*

And *Deut.* 5. all were to keep the Law of God, & all were to keep the outward Sabbath, both Sons Daughters, Men-ſervants & Maid-ſervants, Oxen, Aſſes and other Cattle, and the Strangers that were within the Gates, theſe were all to keep the Reſt, the Sabbath, and the Law of God. *Deut.* 5.

Now mark *Chriſtians*, who are come to Chriſt, and who believe in him, and *have entered into your Reſt by the Law of Chriſt*; ſee that all your Families do keep this *Sabbath*, this Reſt, both you and your Sons and Daughters, Men-ſervants and Maid-ſervants that are within your Gates; this concerns every one of you, that are Maſters of Families, to conſider ſeriouſly of it; for Chriſt is the *Sabbath* and *Reſt*, *who gives Reſt to the whole Creation*, he it is that takes off the Oppreſſion, who deſtroyeth the Devil's Works, who hath been the Oppreſſor both of Man and Beaſt; and ſo in Chriſt all have Reſt, and Peace, and Love, that doth not *kill*, nor *commit Adultery*, nor *ſteal*, nor *covet*,

vet any thing that another man hath, nor *bear false Witneſs*, nor *make Images* of any thing in Heaven above, or in the Earth beneath, and ſo Love fulfils the Law: And therefore ſee that this Law of Love be ſet up in all your Families, by which they may be ordered and ruled.

Here you may ſee how *Moſes*, a faithful Servant of the Lord, as the Lord had commanded him, puts the *Jews* in mind of their Duty required of them by the Lord; *Keep* (ſaith he) *therefore the Words of this Covenant, and do them, that you may proſper in all that ye do; ye ſtand this day all of you before the Lord your God, your Captains of your Tribes, your Elders and your Officers, with all the Men of* Iſrael, *your little Ones, your Wives, and thy Strangers that are within thy Camp, from the Hewer of Wood unto the Drawer of thy Water, that thou ſhouldeſt enter into Covenant with the Lord thy God, &c.* *Deut. 9. 29. 9., to 11.*

Now conſider this, hear how that all theſe were to ſtand before the Lord, to enter into Covenant with the Lord, even the Elders, the Officers, with the men of *Iſrael*, their Wives and little Children, the Strangers, with the Hewers of Wood and Drawers of Water; *now Chriſt's is the new Covenant*, and therefore all you called *Chriſtians*, that profeſs him, who are Elders and Maſters of Families, are you not to ſee that your Wives, your Children and Strangers that are within your Camps, yea, to the Hewers of your Wood and Drawers of your Water, that they come all into the new Covenant, *Chriſt Jeſus*, which in God is eſtabliſhed forever, an everlaſting Covenant, who ends the firſt Covenant among the *Jews*; and there-

therefore ſhall not you outſtrip the *Jews* in their Families, in bringing all your Families, and Strangers, and Sojourners, Hewers of Wood and Drawers of Water into the New Covenant of Life, *Chriſt Jeſus*, through whom they may ſtand before God, and have Peace with him; mark this, ye Elders, and Rulers, and Fathers of Families, who have Strangers and Sojourners in your Families, ſo as to ſee that you do perform your Duty, and bring them to do their Duty in the Covenant of Life, *Chriſt Jeſus*.

And now again in *Deut.* 31. *When all* Iſrael *ſhall appear before the Lord thy God, in the Place which he ſhall choose*; *thou ſhalt read the Law* (ſaith he) *before all* Iſrael, *in their hearing, and ſhall gather the People together, Men, Women and Children, and thy Strangers that are within thy Gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord thy God, and obſerve to do all the words of the Law*: Now mark and conſider this all you *Chriſtians*, that profeſs the New Covenant, *Chriſt Jeſus*, and the Law of Love, and the Law of Life, and the Law of Faith, and the Law of the Spirit, muſt you not gather all your Families together, *Men, Women, Children and Strangers within your Gates, and ſuch as you bought with Money, and ſuch as are born of them in your Families*, that they may all hear the New-covenant, and the Law of Life, and the Law of Love, and the Law of Faith, and the *Law of the Spirit of Life, that makes free from the Law of Sin and Death*, that they may all hear, that they may all learn this, and that they may all fear God, and obſerve and do the Law and the *New-Covenant*, as the *Jews* were to do the old, which is a Figure of

Deut. 31.

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the new: And therefore be not you negligent, nor ſloathful, nor careleſs in this, but do your Duty, and ſee that all your Families may do their Duties; and ſo as it was among the *Jews*, the Children that had not known me [hear and learn] and the Strangers; for if you ſhould be negligent in this, then look what came upon the *Jews*, and how rude their Families grew, and how God's Judgments came upon them, and it came partly *by the Heads* of the Families, and *Elders*, and *Overſeers*: And therefore be diligent, and bring all your Families to ſerve God in the firſt Place, and be faithful to him, *through Jeſus Chriſt*, the New-covenant, then they will not be negligent in outward Things, if they be faithful to God, and then God's Bleſſing will be in your Families; and ſo therein men ſerve the Lord, in bringing their Families to ſerve the Lord, in that they do God's Will, and pleaſe him in the New-covenant, bringing them out of that which diſpleaſeth God, and ſo rule in Power and in Love.

And in *Jeremiah* 10. 25. there you may ſee what the Lord ſaith by the Prophets, *Pour out thy Fury upon the* Heathen *that know thee not, and upon all the Families that call not upon thy Name.* Jer. 10. 25.

So now conſider this ſeriouſly, how God would have all Families to call upon his Name, and eſpecially you that call your ſelves *Chriſtians*, and profeſs the New-covenant of God (to wit) *Chriſt Jeſus*; and therefore ſee that all your Families do call upon the Name of the Lord; it concerns you very much, if

you do not, *ye may expect the Lord's Fury will be poured out upon you and yours.*

There you may see the Lord speaking, how he will pour out his Spirit of Grace and Supplication, *and they shall look upon him whom they have pierced* (meaning *Christ*) *and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only Son, as one that is in Bitterness for his first born; the Land shall mourn, every Family apart shall mourn, and their Wives apart.*

And so consider this all you that profess Christ, who have seen him whom you have pierced; if the Spirit of Grace and Supplication be poured out upon you, why then, you see him, Christ Jesus, whom you have pierced, and then you will mourn bitterly, as you should mourn for your first born.

So all Friends, they that witness the Spirit of Grace poured out upon them, they know the Mourning for him whom they have pierced; and then there is a Fountain opened by *Christ Jesus*, for their Sins and for their Uncleanness, to wash away the Filth.

And you may see in *Zachariah* 14. 17. *Whosoever will not come up of all the Families of the Earth to* Jerusalem, *to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts. even upon them there shall be no Rain; yea, if the Family of* Egypt *go not up, he shall have no Rain, and they shall be plagued, &c.*

Zach. 14. 17.

And now consider this, how all the Families of the Earth, that come to worship the Lord of Hosts in Spirit and in Truth in this Heavenly *Jerusalem*, and keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and eat of *Christ*, the Sacrifice, who is the Bread of Life, that came down from above;

above; such must be punished, such have no Rain indeed, but are like to the parched Ground; and so mind every Family apart this; for *Egypt* was of *Ham's* Stock, yet if they do not come up to worship God, they must be plagued.

And in *Amos* 3.2. you may see there how the Lord was against the whole Family of the *Jews*, because they had not kept his Law, and he punished them. And so consider ye *Christians*, ye whole Families of *Christians*, and see how you have kept the Law of the New-covenant, and the Law of Love, and the Law of Life, and the Law of the Spirit; if you have not, plainly you must be punished, God will punish you with a Witness, even the whole Family; if any Family, or Tribe, or Man, or Woman their Hearts shall turn away from God, and serve other Gods, see what a *Curse* came upon them; and therefore what doth *Christ* say unto all the left Hand Goats, though they may profess him in Words, whose Hearts are turned away from his Law of Love, Law of Life, Law of Faith, and the New-covenant. *Amos* 3. 2.

And therefore see that the Ark of the Lord be in every ones House (to wit) your Hearts, in all your Families, and with the Law and Testimony of Jesus in it, and then you will have the Blessing of the Lord with you, as *Obed Edom* had the Blessing of the Lord upon his Family and House, while the outward Ark remained with him, the Figure of which *Christians* must enjoy the Substance of, as you may see, 1 *Cor.* 13, 14. & *Gen.* 39. 5.

See how the Lord there blessed the *Egyptian's* House

for *Joseph*'s sake, and the Blessing of the Lord was upon all that the *Egyptian* had, both in House and Field; so you may hence see how a Servant, being a faithful Man to God, brought the Blessing of God upon the House and Field of a *Heathen*, and now much more a faithful Master, or an Head, or an Elder of a Family, faithful to God, bringeth a Blessing on his own Family, and upon all within his House, and out of his House, and Field; for the Lord said, *If that they keep his Law and his Word, then they shall be blessed in the Field and in the Store-house, and blessed in the Basket, and blessed in his going forth and coming in* (as *Abraham was*) who are of the *Faith* of *Abraham* now, of the *blessed Seed*, that brings the Blessing now to them, as it did to him; but they that crucifie the Seed to themselves afresh, and quench the Spirit of God in themselves, and entertain the evil Seed and the evil Spirit, that brings the Curse upon them in the Basket and in the Store-house, and in the Field, in his going Forth and coming in.

And you may read in the Scriptures how many Families, Nations and Kingdoms the Lord did cut off, because they did not obey nor keep his Law, as *Core* and his Family, *Achan* and his, wicked *Haman* and his, and many others, for transgressing the Law of God. Yea, and he destroyed Nations for his own People, and gives his own People the Possession of them, because of the former Inhabitants Debauchery and Wickedness, and tells his own People, that if they do go into the same Debaucheries and Wickedness, they must look for the same Destruction: And therefore *Christians* all should serve God in the new Life,

Life, out of the Life of old *Adam*; for if they do profeſs Chriſt Jeſus, the Heavenly Man, and yet live in the Old *Adam*, and ſerve Sin and Evil, they muſt look for Deſtruction, both Families and Nations, who profeſs God in Words, but deny him in their Works, Lives and Converſations, according to that in *Iſa.* 31. 2. 9. the Lord ſaith concerning the Children of *Iſrael*, that tranſgreſs his Law, *Are ye not* (ſaith he) *as Children of* Ethyopia *unto me, O ye Children of* Iſrael, *Amos* 9. 7. Amos 9 7.

Now conſider this, if the Children of *Iſrael* tranſgreſs the Law of God, were they not accounted as *Ethyopian Children*: And ſo you *Chriſtians* now, who profeſs *Chriſt* in Words, and tranſgreſs his Law of Love, of Life, of Faith, and the New-covenant, *are you not to the Lord as Children of the* Ethyopians: what Difference is between you? It is not a Profeſſion and talking that makes the Difference, but the Poſſeſſion of *Chriſt*. *Jer.* 38. there you may ſee an *Ethyopian*, a Black-moor, how ſerviceable he was made unto *Jeremiah* (the Lord's Prophet) in the Day of his Suffering in the Dungeon, how he went to the King, and told him that the Prophet was like to periſh there, and the King commanded him to go and take thirty Men, and draw him out of the Dungeon before he dye; ſo here this *Black* had more Sence *then the great Profeſſors of* Jeremiah's *Innocency*; and he was in Favour with the King, being one of his Eunuchs.

And ſo now conſider, do not ſlight them, to wit, the *Ethyopians*, the *Blacks* now, neither any Man or Woman upon the Face of the Earth, in that *Chriſt* dyed for all, both *Turks*, *Barbarians*, *Tartarians* and *Ethyopians*;

thyopians; he dyed for the *Tawnes* and for the *Blacks*, as well as for you that are called *whites*; therefore you may see in *Acts* 8.27. how the Lord commanded *Philip* to go toward the South, and he arose and went, *and behold a Man of* Ethyopia, *a Eunuch of great Authority under* Candace *Queen of* Ethyopia, *who had the Charge of all her Treasure, how this Man came up to* Jerusalem *to worship the Lord, and how this* Ethyopian, *this Black, was converted to Christianity by* Philip, *who preached Christ to him:* And therefore now you should preach Christ to your *Ethyopians* that are in your Families, that so they may be free Men indeed, and be tender of and to them, and walk in Love, that ye may answer that of God in their Hearts, being (as the Scripture affirms) all of one Blood & of one Mold, to dwell upon the Face of the Earth; *for Christ* (I say) *shed his Blood for them, as well as for you, and tasted Death for them, as well as for you, and hath enlightned them, as well as he hath enlightned you, and his Grace hath appeared unto them, as well as it hath appeared unto you, and he is a Propitiation for their Sins, as well as for yours; for he is the Propitiation for the Sins of the whole world*: and so let every Master and Governour of a Family inform them, as well as others in his Family, that so they may come to walk in the Grace and in the Light of Jesus Christ, that so they may come to know Christ, the Saviour, from whence Grace and Light comes, and the Mediator (or Middle-man) between them and God; and so in this so doing, you will serve God, and not your selves: Also in *Psalm.* 68. 31. there you may see, *Princes should come out of* Egypt, *and* Ethyopia *shall stretch forth her Hand unto God; sing unto God,*

God, ye Kingdoms of the Earth; Oh praiſe the Lord: Now conſider this ye *Chriſtians*, the Prophecy of *David*, in that you may ſee the fulfilling of it (*viz.*) that *Ethyopia* ſhould ſoon ſtretch out her Hand unto God for you; ſee by the *Eunuch*, when he was converted, his Hand was ſoon ſtretched out to God; and doth the Lord ſay in another Place, Egypt *my People*.

And therefore *Chriſtians*, you that have received it, do you preach the everlaſting Covenant, Chriſt Jeſus, to the *Ethyopians*, the *Blacks* and *Tawny-moors*, as *Philip* did; I ſay, preach Chriſt Jeſus to them in your Families, that ſo each may come to know Chriſt and their Way to Salvation, as in *Pſal.* 87. the Lord ſpeaking of the Glory of his Church, ſaith, *he will make mention of* Rahab, *and* Babilon, *and* Ethiopia, *that make mention of me, behold, &c.* So that you may ſee that there was a Church of God in *Egypt*, in *Babylon* and *Ethiopia*, who were Chriſtians, as well as among the *white* People, ſo called by the *Blacks*.

And if thy Brother, an Hebrew *Man* or an *Hebrew Woman be ſold unto thee, and ſerve thee ſix Years, then in the ſeventh Year, thou ſhalt let him go free from thee; and when thou ſendeſt him out free from thee thou ſhalt not let him go away empty, thou ſhalt furniſh him liberally out of thy Flock, and out of thy Floor, and out of thy Wine-preſs, of that wherewith the Lord thy God hath bleſſed thee, thou ſhalt give it him; and remember that thou waſt a Bond-man in the Land of* Egypt, *and the Lord thy God redeemed thee; therefore I command thee this Thing to Day.*

See here this was to be done by the *Jews* to ſuch as were of their own Nation and People, and indeed this will

will very well become *Christians*, *Masters*, *Governours* and *Rulers* of Families here in this Island or elsewhere, who should outstrip the *Jews* to deal so (as the Lord commanded) *with their Servants and Apprentices, that are of their own Nation or People:* And to close up all, let me tell you, it will doubtless be very acceptable to the Lord, if so be that Masters of Families here would deal so with their Servants, the *Negroes* and *Blacks*, whom they have bought with their Money, to let them go free after a considerable Term of Years, if they have served them faithfully; and when they go, and are made free, *let them not go away empty-handed*, this I say will be very acceptable to the Lord, whose Servants we are, and who rewards us plentifully for our Service done him, not suffering us to go away empty; *for who is there even among you*, saith the Lord, *that will shut the Doors for nought, neither do ye kindle Fire on my Altar for nought*, Mal. 1. 10. So now, you I say that are Christians, that are redeemed out of the spiritual *Egypt*; for as the Apostle saith, 1 *Cor.* 7. 22. *He that is called in the Lord, being a Servant, is the Lord's free Man, that is, set free from Sin and spiritual Bondage: Be ye holy, as your heavenly Father is holy; and be ye merciful, as your heavenly Father is merciful*, as is commanded you in *Luke* 6. 36. and this is the Way to have the lost Image of God restored and renewed in us.

Therefore I say, you spiritual *Jews*, you must exceed the outward *Jews* in this, who are now come to Christ, who is a merciful and faithful high Priest, *who is the Saviour of all men, and who tasted Death for all men*, Heb. 2. 17. And let not your Families of *whites* and

and *Blacks* be like *Sodom* and *Gomorrah*, like *Zeboim* and *Zepherva'im*, and the reſt of the Cities of the Plain, or like the *Canaanites*, leſt ſudden Deſtruction come upon you, and the Lord root you out, as he did them. Let not, I ſay, your Servants under your Command, and ſuch as are born in your Houſes, and bred up in your Families, and ſuch as you have bought with Money, ſuffer them not (I ſay) to take Husbands and Wives at their Pleaſure, and then leave them again when they pleaſe, and then take others again as faſt and ſuddenly as they will, and again leave them; this is not well, this may bring the Judgments of God upon you; yea, this manifeſts your Families to be *unclean* and *adulterous* Families; *For he that puts away his wife, and takes another, he commits Adultery; and ſhe that marries, and he that marries her* (*after ſhe is put away*) *commits Adultery*; this is the Law of God, and of Jeſus Chriſt, the Son of God, the great Reformer and Reſtorer of Pathes to dwell in, *Mat.*19.9. *Iſa.*58.12. that came to reform all Things.

And therefore let theſe Things be amended, as you expect the Bleſſing and Favour of God, or otherwiſe muſt expect his Judgments and Curſe upon you and your Families and your Plantations (who ſhould order theſe Things according to the Reformation and Mind of Jeſus and the Law) even Blaſtings, Mildews, Caterpillars, which is the Portion from God upon debauched Families and People; and therefore let the Law of *Jeſus* be ſet up in every Family.

And if any of your *Negroes* deſire to marry, let them take one another before Witneſſes, in the Preſence of

God, and the Masters of the Families, in the Name of Jesus, the Restorer of all Things to the Beginning, when God made them Male and Female, not one Man and many Women, but a Man and a Woman, and they were to continue and consort together as long as they lived, and not to break the Covenant and Law of Marriage (nor defile the Marriage-Bed) as long as they lived; but if the Man were dead or Woman were dead, they were free, and at Liberty to marry in the Lord, and to be joyned by him, that so he might have the Glory and the Honour of it, and his People to be the Witnesses of it, and so to record it in a Book, which was and is the Practice of the famous Fathers of Truth, and Saints, and Worthies, and Valiants of the Lord, who were Friends of God, and of his Law, and Righteousness, and such as denyed Debauchery, Whoredom, Fornication and Uncleanness.

And further, consider with your selves, if you were in the same Condition as the Blacks are (and indeed you do not know what Condition you or your Children, or your Childrens Children may be reduced and brought into, before you or they shall dye) who came as Strangers to you, and were sold to you as Slaves; now I say, if this should be the Condition of you or yours, you would think it hard Measure; yea, and very great Bondage and Cruelty.

And therefore consider seriously of this, and do you for and to them, as you would willingly have them or any other to do unto you, were you in the like slavish Condition, & bring them to know the Lord Christ,

Christ, and the Light and Grace of Christ, by which they may come to know him that dyed for them, and that shed his precious Blood for them, and was buried, and rose again for their Justification.

And truly Friends, great Troubles I underwent about those Things, yea, sorely was my Spirit troubled when I came into the Sense of these Things, which were over my Life, and burden'd my Life very much, to see, that Families were not brought into Order; for the *Blacks* are of your *Families*, and the many Natives of them born in your Houses: I had a sore Burden, and (I say) much Trouble, how that Righteousness might be brought through in the Thing, and Justice and Mercy set up in every Family and in every Heart, that so God might be honoured in every Family, who is the Creator of all, and hath given his Law to all, that is Just, Righteous, Holy and Good: And so I leave these Things to your serious consideration, and to the Witness of the Spirit of God in you all, and in all your Hearts, and you to be obedient unto it, and see if it will not lead you into the self-same Thing; for indeed when any shall marry into your Family, before the Master of the Family and Overseer of the Family, then you may admonish them all of God and of Christ, and his Truth, Light and Grace in their Hearts, by which they might all know God and Christ, and know the true Marriage, which is honourable, in all Things to beat down the Evil and Vile; for Marriage is of God, and so honoured by him.

And from Mary-land, *the 4th Day of the 12th Moneth, 1672. touching the Government of Families, in Part of his Letter he writes as followeth.*

AND in all your Family-Meetings be not negligent among your Whites and Negroes, but do your Diligence and Duty to God and them, which you will not neglect, if you keep in the Faith of *Abraham*, and of that bleſſed Seed which inheriteth the Promiſe and Crown Immortal; and be at Peace among your ſelves, that every one may ſhew that you are in Chriſt, the Prince of Peace, and it doth ſhew that you are the Diſciples of Chriſt, and Learners and Followers of him, ſo to poſſeſs him, and then Life Eternal, *Amen.*

And from London, *the 14th day of the 7th Moneth, 1673. he wrote as followeth.*

MY Dear Friends, all live in the Power and Spirit of God, in which you have Peace and Life; now in the Spirit you have Unity and Fellowſhip, and this Spirit is the Bond of Peace, in which you do keep the holy, juſt, righteous and good Peace; and now ſee that you do keep the Peace in God's Houſe, who are his Servants and Children in the Spirit;

rit; for in it you have Unity, and in it you have a heavenly Fellowſhip, in the Fellowſhip of the Spirit, the Bond of Peace, by which Spirit you may anſwer that which may be known of God in all, both Blacks and Whites, and that they may make Confeſſion with that of God in them, which they do tranſgreſs, that God is in you of a Truth: And however, keep in Love one with another, for that doth edifie one another, and the whole Body, which Chriſt, the beloved Son of God, that came out of his Boſome, is the Head and Prophet, Shepherd and Biſhop, to open and feed and to overſee. Dear Friends, keep your Meetings, and your Mens and Womens, and your Fortnights Meetings among your Blacks, and train them up in the Fear of the Lord, and ſpread the Truth abroad, and inſtruct your Families, as *Abraham* did, that they may know the New Covenant, & the Lord to write his *Law* in their Hearts, and put it in their Minds: So no more, but my *Love* to all, as though I named them.

And from London, *the* 18*th of the* 12*th Moneth*, 1673.

ALL my dear Friends, keep in the Power of God and in his *Life*, which giveth you an Inheritance of that which hath no End; and keep your Men and Womens Meetings in the Power of God, and keep the Goſpel-Order in the Power of God, and the Government of Chriſt, which bruiſeth the Serpent's

pent's Head, who is the Head of all Disorder and evil Government; and keep your Meetings Weekly and Fortnightly, as they were established, instructing your Families, as *Abraham* did, whether they were hired, or born in his Family, or bought with his Money; and who are of Faith, are of *Abraham*: And let me see and hear that you are of the Faith of *Abraham*, that you do instruct them in *Christianity*, and in the *Law of Jesus*, and in the *Circumcision of the Spirit*, as *Abraham* did outwardly. Send me over a *Black Boy* of your instructing, that I may see some of your Fruits, and as I shall see, I shall make him a free Man, or send him to you again.

And at the last Quarterly Meeting at Thomas Rous's *this Paper was read, as followeth.*

FRiends, all that have *Negroes* to your Servants, let them have two or three Hours of the Day once in the Week, that Day Friends Meeting is on, or an other Day, to meet together, to wait upon the *Lord*; for this would be a good Savour among all the rest; for therein you deny your selves, for the bringing them to the Knowledge of the *Lord God*; and this would be a good Pattern to all the Island, and an Example to all other Masters, to bring their Servants from under Oppression to know the *Lord*.

G. Fox

THE END